

Background

In March 2002 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the Indian Health Service (IHS) as a national accreditation organization for outpatient Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) services. With this approval, diabetes self-management training programs accredited by the IHS are able to receive “deemed” status under the Medicare program and allowed to seek Medicare reimbursement of DSME services for Medicare Part B-eligible beneficiaries.

Achieving CMS approval as one of the two national accreditation organizations for outpatient Diabetes Self-Management Education (the American Diabetes Association is the other) is a culmination of the IHS’s history as a leader in setting standards for quality diabetes education and care. The IHS is a member of the consortium that developed and revised the *National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education*. Since 1986, the *IHS Integrated Diabetes Education and Care Standards* have been used by IHS, tribal and urban (I/T/U) health care facilities to guide and improve diabetes education and care.

▶ TIMELINE

- 2002 IHS approved by CMS as national accreditation organization for DSME services
- 1986 *IHS Integrated Diabetes Education and Care Standards* developed
- 1986 National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (CDE exam) developed
- 1986 *IHS Clinical Standards of Diabetes Care* developed
- 1984 *National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education* developed (revised 1995 and 2000)

The Integrated Diabetes Education Recognition Program (IDERP) - the IHS accreditation program approved by CMS - builds on this history by enabling I/T/U facilities, serving American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and meeting the *National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education*, to seek recognition for quality diabetes education and care services. IHS recognition has other benefits in addition to acknowledging the quality of the diabetes services, including:

- ▶ Medicare reimbursement of DSME
- ▶ enhanced marketing of quality diabetes services to the community and providers
- ▶ improved clinical and behavioral outcomes for participating patients with diabetes

Furthermore, there is no application cost for IHS recognition.

IDERP is also the only national accreditation program that provides the flexibility of a three-stage approach to meeting standards, and recognizes program integration of educational, clinical, and public health standards.



Background (continued)

Programs at Level 1, or the developmental stage, are beginning to work on developing quality programs. Programs that complete Level 2, or the educational stage, have quality diabetes education service in place. Completion of Level 3, or the integrated stage, means that a facility is offering the best in diabetes care and education practices by integrating community-wide prevention programs, diabetes clinical systems, and educational programs for people with diabetes and their families.

